

Fort Sheridan Non-Commissioned Officers'  
Quarters (Building No. 91)  
3612 Lyster Rd.  
Fort Sheridan  
Lake County  
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-28

HABS  
ILL,  
49-FTSH,  
1/28-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. 11-1113-28

FORT SHERIDAN, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER'S QUARTERS  
(Building No. 91)

## FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

HABS  
ILL  
49-FTSH,  
1128-

Location: 3612 Lyster Road.  
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 16. 432700. 4673700.

Present Owner  
and Occupant: United States Army.

Present Use: Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters.

Significance: One of two, similar, two-family houses designed by Holabird and Roche for non-commissioned officers. These houses document early efforts by the army to provide acceptable housing for non-commissioned officers and their families and are illustrative of Holabird and Roche's skill in designing attractive and appropriate buildings for the new military complex at Fort Sheridan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1893.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Unknown.
5. Original plan and construction: A one-and-a-half story rectangular block with front and rear central projecting wings and intersecting gambrel roofs. The original building had no basement. The house is constructed of buff-cream brick with a shingled second floor. The ridge of the roof on the main block runs north-south. The main entrances are through inset porches on the front.
6. Alterations and additions: A basement was constructed in 1932, and in 1942 the rear porches were converted into brick entryways which protected the outdoor stairway to the basement and prevented flooding. Brick piers were constructed at the corners of the front porches. The entryways and new piers were constructed of orange-yellow brick.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams St., Chicago, Illinois. 60606.  
Elevations, plans, and details. 1892-1893 Series. Drawings are  
water damaged.

2. Old views:

Jenkins, Charles E., "Holabird and Roche", Architectural  
Reviewer, June, 1897. p.21.

3. Bibliography:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster  
General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915 and Office  
of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, Record Group  
92. National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering,  
Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A two-family house designed by Holabird and Roche, distinguished by intersecting gambrel roofs which provide greater space on the upper story than the gable and hipped roofs used extensively by the same architects on their other buildings at Fort Sheridan. The design relates to no particular style but was innovative at the time in its solution to the problem of providing acceptable housing at low cost.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: A rectangular, two-story block measuring 26'-6" by 47'-3". Two brick entryways project at the rear of the building.
2. Foundations: The random ashlar limestone foundation has been covered with cement.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Buff-cream colored brick laid in common bond with five rows of stretchers to one of headers. Wood shingles painted yellow cover the second story.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall.
5. Porches: Two screened porches inset at the sides of the facade with a single brick pier at the corner. Two concrete stairs lead up to each of the screen doors on the facade. Two brick entryways at the corners on the rear of the house have hipped roofs covered with cement asbestos shingles.
6. Chimneys: One central, exterior brick chimney on the ridge of the roof. Two small brick chimneys on the first pitch of the gambrel roof just below the ridge on the rear of the building.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The two front entrances are inside the inset corner porches on the south and north side of the building. The doors are paneled wood painted black with a single light. The two doors into the rear entryways are paneled wood painted black with four lights each. The entrances have plain stone lintels. The doors from the entryways into the main house are paneled wood painted black with no glazing.
  - b. Windows: On the facade there are two windows on the first level of the facade and four in the gable end above. On the rear there are four windows at the first level and four in the gable end above. On each of the sides there is one window below and two above. The windows on the second story level on the front and rear are recessed. There is one window in each of the rear entryways on the sides. The windows are double hung sash with lights varying from one-over-one and two-over-two to eight-over-eight.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Intersecting gambrel roofs covered with cement asbestos shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: A raked shingled fascia runs below the roof line in the gambrel ends. A wide fascia board surrounds the house at the top of the first story. It is painted a beige color.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

Both sections of the building have identical floor plans except that they are reversed. The basement is one room. The first floor has a living room at the front of the house and the dining room immediately behind it. The stairway to the second floor is between the two rooms. The kitchen is to the side of the dining room at rear of the house. A door from the kitchen goes into the rear entryway, which contains the stairway to the basement. The second floor has two bedrooms along the interior party wall, and a small room and a bath opposite. There is no usable attic space.

2. Stairways: Each section has a one run, enclosed stairway with winders. The balusters and newel posts are rectangular and are painted an off white. The newel posts have oval caps.
3. Flooring: The floor in the basement is concrete. The first and second story floors are hardwood with boards measuring 2-1/4" across. Some of the floors have been covered with linoleum tile.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The basement walls are brick; the ceiling is unfinished. The first and second story walls and ceilings are plastered and painted an off white.
5. Openings:

Doorways and doors: A wide, rectangular opening connects the living room and dining room. The remaining openings are framed and have paneled doors painted an off white.

D. Site:

The house is located on the west side of Lyster Road with a narrow roadway parallel to Lyster Road providing access to the parking area at the rear of the house. The house faces east with the ridge of the main roof running north-south. It is located between a similar house on the south (Building No. 90) and the Guardhouse on the north (Building No. 33). It sits on a grassy lot with low evergreen shrubbery planted at the front and the sides.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
June 1979

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian, and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.

ADDENDUM TO  
FORT SHERIDAN, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER'S  
QUARTERS (BUILDING NO. 91)  
Fort Sheridan Historic District  
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Lake County  
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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013